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Carnahan Helps Cut Ribbon Today for River City Casino Boulevard As Part of District-Wide "Jobs Tour"

ST. LOUIS - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) helped cut the ribbon for a new access road in South St. Louis County today, hailing it as a critical step to bring thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars in economic development to the region.

Carnahan, who was joined at the ribbon cutting by County Executive Charlie Dooley, County Councilman Steve Stenger and others, participated in the event as part of a district-wide "Jobs Tour." Carnahan is traveling throughout Missouri's Third Congressional District today, highlighting the progress being made to help stimulate economic development and put Americans back to work.

"Good roads lead to good jobs," said Carnahan. **"This road will lead to a new day for the economic development of this community."**

The River City Casino Boulevard, which required an Act of Congress to be built, is part of a regional economic development strategy that will result in approximately 4,000 new jobs for the region, including 3,000 for the construction and staffing of the new River City Casino as well as nearly 1,000 additional jobs at other area businesses. The project creates a new business and recreational magnet, and is expected to generate millions of tourism and economic development dollars for the area.

Carnahan called the new road the kind of investment that will be necessary to rebuild

Missouri's economy and put people back to work.

"We must continue to make jobs our number one priority as we pull our nation out of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression," said Congressman Carnahan. **"Things aren't going to get better overnight. We must continue bringing new jobs here to Missouri."**

The ribbon cutting ceremony was the first stop on Carnahan's district-wide "Jobs Tour." As part of the tour, he will also meet with students and teachers at the **Floor-Layers Joint Apprenticeship Program, an innovative job-training program at Bayless High School in Affton**

that provides real-life work experience and job placement services for over 400 enrolled apprentices. Carnahan will also tour

a construction site in the Sunrise School District in De Soto,

where federal stimulus funds are helping put people to work building new pre-school and junior high school facilities.

Economists have observed increasing positive economic signs, but predict that the unemployment rate will continue to rise before businesses begin to add jobs. In the meantime, federal stimulus funds and other programs are helping to slow the rate of job loss, provide stability for businesses, school districts and local services, and are helping to prepare workers for the jobs of tomorrow.

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